Paragraph 114 of the Hand Book of procedures (Vol.I), copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

The benefits of the Passbook Scheme are available to manufacturer exporters or an exporter having a status of an Export House/Trading House/Star Trading House/Super Star Trading House. The passbooks are to be issued by the Designated Authority at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras and import and exports are to be made through the same port.

Export of Tobacco

85. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the expected quantity of tobacco available for export in 1995-96;

(b) the quantity exported so far during 1995-96; and

(c) steps proposed to export all available quantity of tobacco?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The targeted quantity of tobacco available for exports during 1995-96 is about 70 million kgs.

(b) 19,044 tons of tobacco was exported during April-June, 1995.

(c) some of the steps taken to promote export of tobacco *Inter-alia* include;

(i) Allowing exports to countries facing foreign exchange crunch on long term credit terms.
(ii) Allowing exports of tobacco to Russia through debt repayment route.
(iii) Allowing exporters to make stook and sale operations of tobacco from warehouses established in CIS countries.
(iv) Sponsoring delegations abroad and participating in internaitonal trade fairs.

Import of coconut Oil through STC

86. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minsiter of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether coconut oil has been imported through STC;

(b) if so, the quantity imported so far;

(c) the total production and demand of coconut oil during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(d) whether the production coconut oil as well as its imports have increased during the above period;

(e) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and State-wise;

(f) whether Government have any plan to stop import of coconut oil; and

(g) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No, Sir. STC has not imported coconut oil in the past ten years.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The demand for Coconut Oil as a cooking medium exists only in Keral a and a few neighbouring States to some extent. Coconut oil is also used for industrial purposes in the country. A statement showing the production of Coconut Oil, Statewise, during the Oil years 1991-92 to 1993-94 is given in the statement *(See below)*

(d to (g) It may be seen from the statement annexed that there has been an increase in Coconut Oil production over the years. The import of Coconut Oil is not allowed under OGL.

Production of coconut oil, for the period from 1991-92 to 1993-94 State-wise & Year-Wise

(Qty. in '000 Tonnes)

State	Oil year (nov.Oct) 1991-92	1992-93	1993-94 esti-mated
1. Kerala	124	161	175
2. Tamil Nadu	81	87	94
3. Karnataka	36	39	42
4. Andhra Pradesh	28	33	36
5. West Bengal	8	9	10
6. Orissa	6	7	8
7. Others	14	14	15
Total	297	350	380

Decline in Trade balance with Germany

87. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sharp decline in the country's trade balance with Germany;

(b) if so, the reasons for decline in exports to Germany; and

(c) the steps taken to increase exports to Germany and to maintain a trade balance between the two countreis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The steps taken to increase exports to Germany and to maintain a trade balance between the two countries include diversification of exports to new products like processed foods, floriculture, toys, moulded baggage, stationery for children, thermoware and handicrafts; improvement of quality and price competitiveness of the existing products; and adoption of timely measures to meet new challenges in the German market.

Import of Palmolein oil through STC

88. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 5852 given in the Rajya Sabha on 15th May, 1995 and state the expenditure likely to be incurred by Government for the import of palmolein oil through STC during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): The Government had authorised STC to import a total quantity of 1.50 lakh Metric Tons of palmolein during 1995-96. STC has informed that the average per ton cost (CIF value) of Palmolein, on the basis of the actual contracts made by them for import of palmolein, would be US$656.5.

Distribution of sub-standard sugar through fair prices shops in Gujarat

89. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether sub-standard sugar has been distributed in the recent months through fair price shops in Gujarat in each District;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have conducted any enquiry to ascertain the facts; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No such instance has been brought to the notice of the Governemnt.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.